



PATENT
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UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
Masanori NAKAHARA et al.) Confirmation No.: 4644
Application No.: 10/762,313) Group Art Unit: 2653
Filed: January 23, 2004) Examiner: Thang V. Tran
For: INFORMATION RECORDING)
APPARATUS AND INFORMATION)
RECORDING METHOD)

Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir:

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

This filing is in response to the Restriction Requirement in the Office Action dated March 6, 2006, the period for response to which extends through April 6, 2006. The Restriction requirement in the Office Action dated March 6, 2006 is respectfully traversed as being improper as it acted on claims 1-22, which includes claims 1-18 that were previously canceled in this application.

Applicants note that a Supplemental Preliminary Amendment was filed in this application on April 9, 2004 resulting in claims 1-18 being canceled and new claims 19-52 being added. Accordingly, claims 19-52 are currently pending in this application.

The Election/Restriction requirement did not act on currently pending claims 23-52. In addition, the Election/Restriction requirement's statements with regard to claims 19-22 do not appear to be correct at least because these claims do not include a "slider" as alleged by the Examiner at page 2, section 1.I. of the March 6, 2006 Office Action.

Applicants respectfully submit that no group is currently elected because the Restriction requirement in the March 6, 2006 Office Action is improper in that it is not directed to the currently pending claims in this application.

Applicants respectfully request that a new Office Communication be issued directed to the currently pending claims 19-52 in this application.

Applicants respectfully submit that it is their understanding that there is no fee is due in connection with the filing of this response. However, if there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge those fees to Deposit Account No. 50-0573.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: April 5, 2006

By:

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